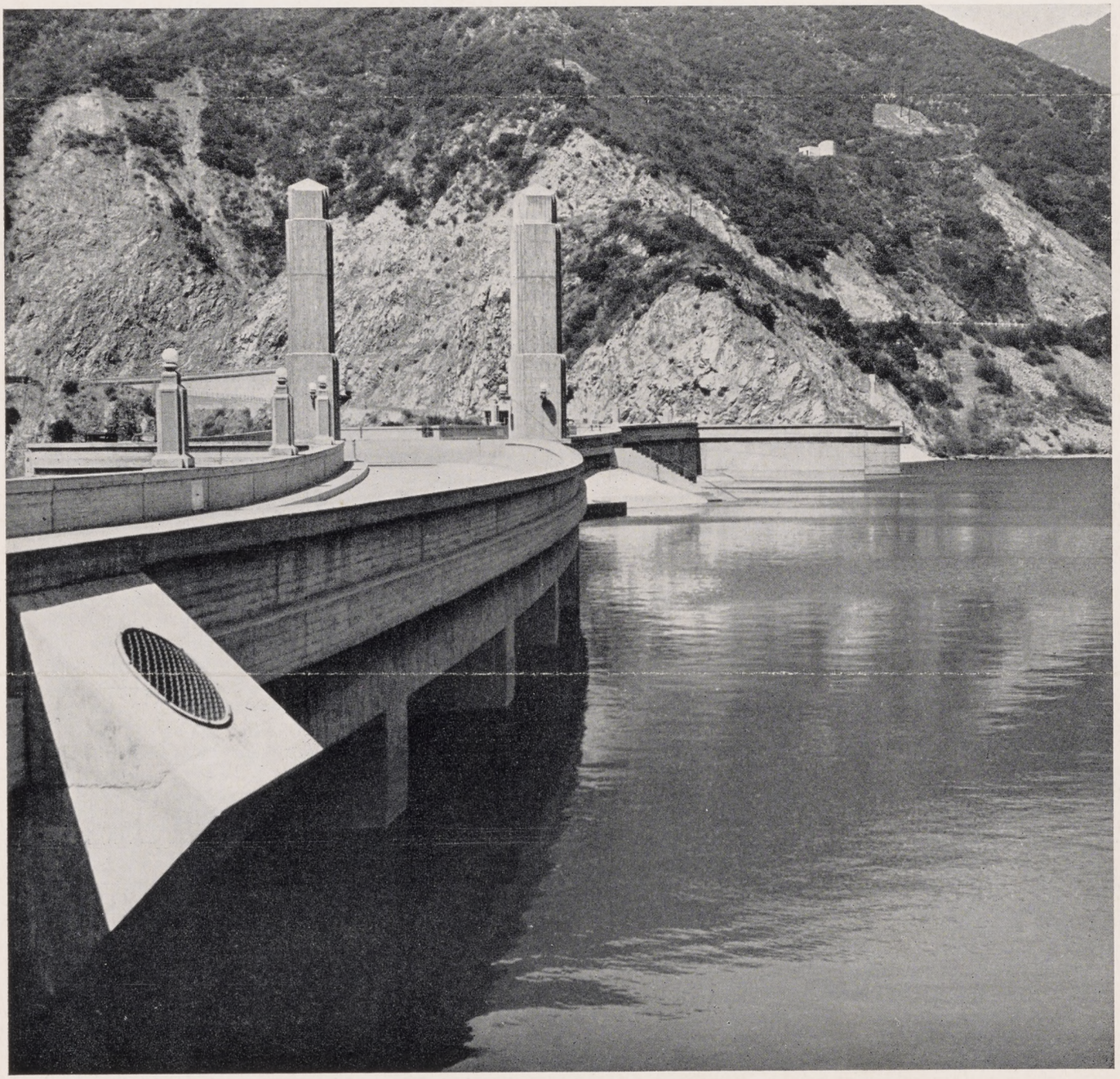
• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. VIII AUGUST 30, 1941 No. 8



Upstream view of Morris Dam, recently taken over by District and made a part of the Colorado River Aqueduct system.

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AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
306 West Third St.
Los Angeles, California

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

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District Tax Rate Reduced By Directors

As a result of drastic economies effected in final construction costs and in its operating organization, the District Board of Directors on August 15 fixed the District's tax rate for the year 1941-42 at 48 cents per $100.00 of assessed valuation, a reduction of one cent under last year's rate.

Adoption of the 48-cent rate was voted by the Board on the recommendation of its finance committee, composed of John R. Richards, Chairman, Victor H. Rossetti, D. W. Pontius and Herman Nelson. Members of the committee drew attention to the fact that the tax rate had been slightly reduced rather than increased, despite the fact that this year marks the completion of the giant Colorado River Aqueduct in its initial development, a construction program which during the past 12 months has involved an additional investment of $7,500,000 in District bond funds.

It is not required that the assessments levied against the District cities be paid in taxes, it was pointed out by members of the Board's finance committee. In fact, the cities of Glendale and Pasadena already have made indication that they will meet their entire 1941-42 District levy by public utility revenues from their municipally-owned water and light systems. Compton has indicated that it will pay a portion of its levy from its City Water Department revenues.

Financed by a bond issue of $220,000,000 voted by a ratio of five to one in 1931, the Colorado River Aqueduct actually has been built in its initial development, and made ready for service, at a construction cost of approximately $187,000,000. Board Chairman W. P. Whitsett has pointed out that the great savings accomplished in building the aqueduct have been reflected in much lower tax rates than otherwise would have been necessary.

Giant Water System In Full Operation

On August 1, in accordance with the schedule authorized by the Board of Directors, the District officially and actually became an operating organization. Thus was brought to a successful conclusion a period of twelve and a half years during which the District had carried forward as a construction organization the titanic task of planning and building in its first development the giant Colorado River Aqueduct.

August 1 found all construction work on the first development of the aqueduct completed and the works actually in service, all the way from the Intake pumping plant to the various feeder lines of the distribution system, which deliver water to the District cities.

The first softened and filtered water to be delivered to a District city was turned into the Sunset Reservoir of the city of Pasadena on June 17. Thereafter, one after another, a number of other District communities received aqueduct water from the new source of supply. In line with the Board's authorized program, these cities are being delivered the soft and filtered water without charge by the District for a period of sixty days following the date of the first delivery. Thereafter the District's rate for water service to its member cities is $15.00 per acre foot, a rate equal to 3.5 cents per 100 cubic feet.

In sharp contrast to the army of construction men, engineers and clerical workers who carried forward the job of building the world's greatest domestic water supply line, is the District organization which now has the responsibility of operating this giant aqueduct system in the service of the people. Where once as high as 11,000 at one time labored on the huge construction project, there are today, along the entire aqueduct system, from Boulder Dam and the Intake to and including the Los Angeles headquarters office, less than 300 men and women on the District payroll.

New Aqueduct Folder Available To Public

In response to continuing requests from educational institutions and from the general public, the District in August made available for distribution an up-to-date edition of its four-color aqueduct map folder entitled "Water for the Thirteen Golden Cities." In addition to a map of the complete aqueduct system, the folder contains a brief but comprehensive outline of the District organization and authoritative data concerning the various features of the aqueduct. The folders are available at the District's information office in the Los Angeles headquarters, at the Lake Mathews Observation Point and at the several pumping plants.

A revised edition of the special folder giving general and technical information relating to the Softening and Filtration Plant was also sent to the printer. Copies of this publication will be available the latter part of September, and will be distributed from the Los Angeles headquarters and the Softening Plant.

– DIRECTORY –

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W. P. Whitsett, Chairman
Franklin Thomas, Vice-Chairman
E. P. Hapgood, Secretary

Anaheim	E. P. Hapgood
Beverly Hills	Arthur Taylor
Burbank	James L. Norwood
Fullerton	Walter Humphreys
Compton	Warren W. Butler
Glendale	Herman Nelson
Long Beach	William M. Cook
Los Angeles	Otto J. Emme
Los Angeles	Perry H. Greer
Los Angeles	Joseph Jensen
Los Angeles	D. W. Pontius
Los Angeles	John R. Richards
Los Angeles	Victor H. Rossetti
Los Angeles	W. P. Whitsett
Pasadena	Franklin Thomas
San Marino	John H. Ramboz
Santa Ana	S. H. Finley
Santa Monica	Samuel G. McClure
Torrance	Charles T. Rippy
Executive Secretary	A. L. Gram

OFFICERS REPORTING TO THE BOARD

General Manager and Chief Engineer	Julian Hinds
General Counsel	James H. Howard
Controller	J. M. Luney
Treasurer	Ira R. Pontius

GENERAL STAFF

Chief Electrical Engineer	J. M. Gaylord
Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer	R. B. Diemer
Assistant to the General Manager	Don J. Kinsey
Right of Way and Claims Agent	Geo. R. LeBaron
Office Engineer	R. A. Skinner
Mechanical Engineer	R. M. Peabody
Chief Accountant and Assistant Controller	A. W. McKinlay
Assistant Treasurer	C. G. Olson
Hydrographic Engineer	C. C. Elder
Purchasing Agent	E. W. Putnam

DIVISION ENGINEERS

Field Supt., Pumping Plants	T. T. Walsh
Maintenance Engineer, Aqueduct and Transmission Lines	Robt. N. Allen
Operating Eng., Softening and Filtration Plant	W. W. Aultman

• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in August, covering work done in July.)

Miscellaneous Activities Division

During the month of July, 1941, 5 labor employment applicants were cleared for force account work on the aqueduct. The net turnover for all positions for June, 1941, was 1.34 per cent as compared with 0.00 per cent for the same period in 1940.

Main Aqueduct

Salvage Division—Stock appraised for transfer to the Banning Salvage Yard to date amounts to $2,381,396.22. Sales during July amounted to $9,741.82. Total of salvage disbursements to date amounts to $1,615,948.09. The appraised value of stock on hand as of July 31, 1941, was $578,979.89.

Parker Dam and Power Plant—Forces of the Bureau of Reclamation continued placing concrete in the substructure and started work on the superstructure. Repairs to No. 3 crest gate have been completed and repairs started on No. 1 gate after floating bulkhead had been moved into position.

Electrical Engineering Division

Pumping Plants—The pumping plants were operated intermittently during the month for testing and conditioning aqueduct structures and plant equipment.

Construction — All emergency gas-engine generator sets have been installed and operated successfully. Material for repair of the damaged transformer at Hayfield was received and work was started on the repairs.

Aqueduct Maintenance and Miscellaneous Construction — Storms caused some damage to patrol roads particularly near the Eagle Mountains. Jetting of backfill under canals and cleaning of debris in canals and sediment from sand traps was carried on.

Civil Engineering Division

Design—Drawings were prepared for an additional delivery station for the City of Fullerton. Details were completed for the installation of chlorination equipment at Palos Verdes and Orange County Reservoirs and studies made of requirements for bird abatement wire at Orange County Reservoir.

Hydrography—Meetings of the Colorado River Board were attended for discussion of conditions on the river and extension of use of its waters. At the end of July Lake Mead storage was within one foot of the top of the spillway gates at Boulder Dam. Aid was given United States agencies in connection with studies of flood control and use of water from Lake Havasu and Parker Dam. Storage in Lake Mathews at the end of the month was 89,914 acre feet, a decrease of 4,819 acre feet.

Distribution Division

Field and Office Engineering—Field and office work consisted mainly of inspection of remaining contracts and continuation of work on historical records and compiling of information for use in operating the system.

Force Account — At the softening plant the storage area east of the warehouse was surfaced, booster pump for irrigation of the groves installed and railing constructed along the roof parapet wall.

Contract Work—Landscaping of the grounds at the softening plant was completed by Armstrong Nurseries. Work continued on the waste water line at San Jose Creek. The Orange County feeder was completed and Macco Construction Company, subcontractor, completed the gunite lining at the Orange County Reservoir while C. G. Willis & Sons cleaned up and completed miscellaneous minor items.

Purchasing Division

Total expenditures covered by 346 purchase orders and 4 agreements issued by the division during the month of July, 1941, aggregated approximately $25,743.28. Carload forwardings totaled 61, of which 49 were salt.

Accounting and Costkeeping

The total cost of the work accomplished to July 31, 1941, was $193,-853,964.47.

In step with the compact and compressed operating organization of the District, the AQUEDUCT NEWS comes out this issue as a four-page bulletin. Issuance of the August number was delayed by the absence of the editor. Forthcoming numbers will be issued on or about the last of each month. The number of pages will vary from four to eight. Regardless of its size, the News in the future, as it has in the past, will seek to present to District employees and to the public authentic information concerning the work, the plans and the problems of the organization operating the Aqueduct.

Director Hapgood Is New Board Secretary

Director E. P. Hapgood, representative of the City of Anaheim, assumed his new duties as Secretary of the District Board of Directors at the meeting of the Board on August 29.

Mr. Hapgood unanimously was elected by his associate members as Secretary of the Board on August 15. He succeeds Col. S. H. Finley, Director for Santa Ana, who had served continuously as Secretary ever since the permanent organization of the District in February, 1929.

Several months ago, Col. Finley notified the Board that he desired to resign from the office of Secretary in order to be relieved, following 12 years of service, from the detailed duties of the office. He remains on the Board as the representative of Santa Ana, having been the Director from that city ever since the formation of the District.

Mr. Hapgood, who is City Engineer of Anaheim, has been a member of the Board since 1935, during most of which period he has served as a member of the Engineering Committee, one of the key committees of the Board of Directors.

The other Board officers are Chairman W. P. Whitsett and Vice-Chairman Franklin Thomas, both of whom originally were elected at the time the Board permanently was organized, and since have six times been re-elected. The Board officers and other Board members receive no salary or financial remuneration of any kind for their services in directing the affairs of the District.

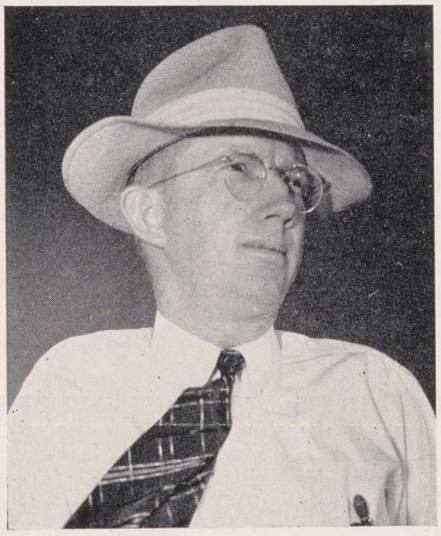
R. B. Diemer

In an ordinance adopted by the Board of Directors on August 29, R. B. Diemer, Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer, was authorized to act as General Manager and Chief Engineer of the District in the absence of General Manager and Chief Engineer Hinds and Chief Electrical Engineer Gaylord.

Since the District went on an operating basis on August 1, Mr. Diemer has been in charge of the operation and maintenance of the entire main aqueduct and distribution system. Operation and maintenance of the pumping plants and power transmission system is under the direction of Mr. Gaylord.

The wide expanse of Lake Mathews' sparkling blue water continues to be the mecca of several thousand Southern California sightseers each week.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Important operating features of the aqueduct since it has begun the delivery of water are its distribution reservoirs. Here is Glenn Lucas, General Foreman on the Palos Verdes Reservoir and Feeder Line.

James P. Marvin, one of the C.R.A.V. (Colorado River Aqueduct Veterans) who resigned from his position in the Design Division several weeks ago, is now employed with the California Shipbuilding Corporation. Jimmy had been with the District since 1929. He now has joined many other former aqueducters who are helping Uncle Samuel turn out fighting and merchant ships at a rate that is beating all previously established ship building records anywhere on the Seven Seas.

* * *

Another long-time member of the District organization recently to terminate his aqueduct work and join forces with Southern California's ever expanding aircraft industry is Arthur F. Dignum. Since October, 1936, he had been Supervising Clerk for the Compensation Claims Division. His first services for the District were performed as early as March, 1933, when he started on the big job as Timekeeper at Pushawalla Camp on the Coachella Tunnels.

* * *

Miss Elisabeth von Hagen, who resigned as Secretary to the General Manager and Chief Engineer on August 1 after directing the management of the office for the past twelve years, was married on August 16 to Don J. Kinsey, Assistant to the General Manager. The marriage was performed at the Grace Community Church in Boulder City, Nevada.

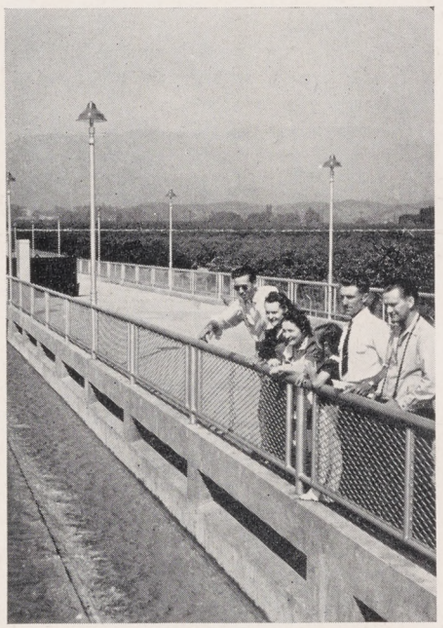
Aqueduct Temperatures
July 16, 1941, to August 15, 1941

	Max.	Min.
Gene Pumping Plant	114°	70°
Iron Mt. Pumping Plant	116°	71°
Eagle Mt. Pumping Plant	113°	67°
Banning	105°	53°
Lake Mathews	99°	54°

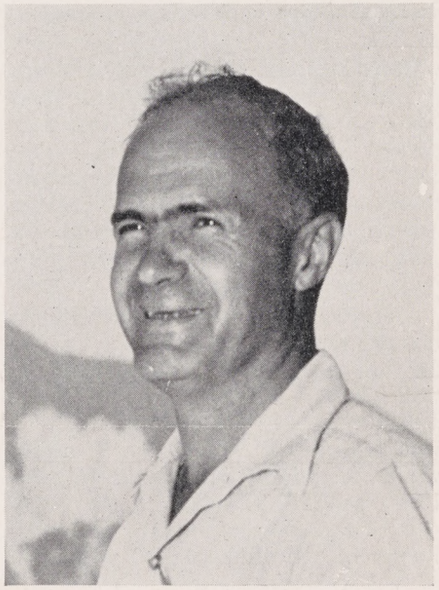
Dr. Hugh M. Mason, who has been the District's Health Officer since May, 1934, has resigned as the M.W.D. staff doctor to devote his entire time to private practice. His offices are located at 635 South Westlake Avenue, and he is still available to perform medical services for members of the District Employees' Medical Fund.

* * *

Mel G. Bonelli, one of that select company of aqueduct pioneers who can say with authority "I remember when . . .", resigned as Draftsman in the Distribution Division on August 13 to accept a position with the Consolidated Steel Corp. Mel started as a draftsman on the Colorado River Aqueduct project in March, 1926, working out of the old field survey office at Beaumont. Later, and before coming into the Los Angeles engineering offices, he was an Inspector on Division 5.



Busy as the proverbial bird dog out at the Softening and Filtration Plant is Official Guide Walter Parker, seen here, at extreme left, explaining the fine points of the water softening process to a party of visitors.



Up in the San Gabriel Canyon and in charge of the operation of Morris Dam and Reservoir is Fred D. Chapman, formerly with the Pasadena Water Department and now a full fledged aqueducter.

Thousands of Southern Californians have visited Boulder Dam during the past several weeks to witness the spectacle of Lake Mead water cascading over one of the two spillways which flank the dam. Last winter's heavy snowfall on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains resulted this summer in a record inflow of water which filled the great man-made lake for the first time since it began the storage of water in 1935. In preparing for next year's inflow, the Reclamation Bureau found it necessary to by-pass considerable quantities of the stored water in addition to that required for hydroelectric generation, for irrigation and for diversion by the M.W.D.

* * *

One of the NEWS suburban correspondents comes in somewhat late with the report that Assistant Engineer Lee Streicher at the Softening and Filtration Plant on July 9 became the father of Joan Ellen, nine pounds, even.

* * *

C. W. (Charlie) Fredericks, who has been with the District since March, 1933, and for the past several years was an Assistant Engineer in the Design Division, is now engaged in engineering work with the Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Corp. Charlie resigned from his position with the District the latter part of July.